

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 NEA-10 ARA-10

/115 W

-----065084 171259Z /46

R 170930Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4019

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD, BM

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 2

REF: STATE 191312

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED SUBJECT MEETING WITH DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. THE DIRECTOR SAID HE APPRECIATED THE U.S INTEREST IN THE COMMON FUND AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR PROGRESS. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT BURMA REMAINS COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP OF 77 REGARDING THE COMMON FUND AND NEARLY ALL OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO UNCTAD.

2. IF PAST PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, THE GUB WILL PROBABLY ISSUE ONLY VAGUE GUIDELINES INSTRUCTING ITS DELEGATION TO FOLLOW THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP OF 77. BURMA HAS MORE INTEREST IN MAKING A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE GROUP OF 77 THAN IT HAS IN ANY SPECIFIC ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

3. THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE AND THE MINISTRY
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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH SOME MINOR INPUT FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRADE SET POLICY FOR THE MEETING WITHIN THE GUB. WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ANY PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING ARE DR. MAUNG MYINT, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND U THEIN NYUNT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE. AT A HIGHER LEVEL DR. MAUNG SHEIN, DEPUTY

MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE, APPROVES POLICY AND OBTAINS ANY NECESSARY CABINET-LEVEL CLEARANCES.

4. THE GUB DOES NOT PLAN TO SEND ANYONE FROM RANGOON TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING. IT WILL MOST LIKELY FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT SET FOR THE MARCH MEETING AND NOMINATE BURMA'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, U THET TUN, TO HEAD THE GUB DELEGATION. U THET TUN HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN TRADE MATTERS - HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BURMESE DELEGATION TO UNCTAD I, II, AND III. PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT, AMBASSADOR THET TUN WAS ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THAT MINISTRY'S CENTRAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. IN GUB CIRCLES HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS ECONOMIC EXPERTISE, AND HE MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER GUB POLICY FOR THE UPCOMING MEETING.

5. IF FOR ANY REASON U THET TUN SHOULD BE UNAVAILABLE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING, THE NEXT LOGICAL CHOICE TO HEAD THE GUB DELEGATION WOULD BE BURMA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, U CHIT MOUNG. A FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE, AMBASSADOR CHIT MOUNG HEADED THE BURMESE DELEGATION TO UNCTADHKO.

6. GIVEN BURMA'S LACK OF INTEREST IN SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE AND ITS POLITICAL INTERESTS IN PROMOTING ITS GOOD STANDING AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF CONFIDENTIAL

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77, WE DOUBT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN EXPERT FROM THE U.S. DISCUSS THE COMMON FUND WITH GUB OFFICIALS IN RANGOON. A DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR THET TUN IN PARIS MIGHT PROVE SOMEWHAT MORE PRODUCTIVE. HE IS CONSIDERED FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC BY BURMESE STANDARDS AND HIS OPINIONS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMICS CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT WITHIN THE GUB. IN ADDITION, HE WILL MOST LIKELY BE BURMA'S MAN ON THE SPOT AND MAY HAVE SOME LEEWAY IN INTERPRETING WHAT ARE USUALLY VAGUE INSTRUCTIONS FROM RANGOON. BARTLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COMMODITIES, MEETINGS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 191312
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1576096
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 2
TAGS: ECON, EGEN, BM, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e1e6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009